

LETTERS

CONCERNING THE

REGIUM DONUM,

ADDRESSED TO THE

EDITOR

OF THE

MORNING CHRONICLE.

By a DISSENTER.

LONDON

PRINTED IN THE YEAR 1792.

LETTERS

CONCERNING THE

REGIUM DONUM

ADDED TO THE

EDITOR



MORNING CHRONICLE

BY J. BISSSETTER.

LONDON

PRINTED IN THE YEAR 1802.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following Letters were occasioned by a Correspondence that lately appeared in the MORNING CHRONICLE. They were written with a view of obviating the Objections that had been urged against the Grant, the Acceptance and the Distribution of the *Regium Donum*. As these Objections were communicated to the Public through the Medium of a Newspaper, the Author thought that the same Mode of Reply would be most likely to counteract their Effect. Confiding in the impartiality of the Editor, he sent the first Letter to the Office of the Morning Chronicle, and for some Days expected the Insertion of it. But the Editor, for Reasons best known to himself, declined the Publication of it. This, and the remaining Letters, are now printed in the State in which they were originally written; and they will be dispersed, as Opportunities occur. The Author hopes to convince the
unprejudiced

unprejudiced and dispassionate Reader, that the Dissenters may honourably accept what the Crown freely bestows; and that they would incur much greater Reproach by suddenly rejecting than by continuing to receive a Benefaction, which reflects no Disgrace on the Donor, on the Distributors, or on those who partake of it.

TO THE

EDITOR

OF THE

MORNING CHRONICLE.

LETTER I.

SIR,

MANY of your readers are of opinion, that your paper is disgraced by being made the vehicle of anonymous calumny. They think that justice and honour should forbid your admitting either attacks or insinuations against the character of persons, presumed but not proved to belong to a particular trust, on the authority of nameless correspondents, whose real signatures would probably expose their views, and defeat their malignity. You, Sir, may not be so well acquainted with the Dissenters, either as to their political principles or peaceable temper, as to

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know,

know, that a very great majority of this respectable body of people are neither in their judgment nor inclination enemies to the established government of this kingdom; and that they observe, with just indignation, every attempt to excite a spirit of disaffection and hostility to the present reigning family. Friends to liberty and a temperate reform, they will, however, resent and to the utmost of their power oppose every wild and frantic effort for introducing chimerical alterations into the form of our civil government; and for promoting, with this view, an antipathy to the constitutional Sovereign of the country.

The letters which you have published on the subject of the *Regium Donum* are written in order to provoke Dissenters to insult Majesty by the refusal of a donation, to which no dishonourable condition is annexed, and to create a serious and permanent misunderstanding between the King and a very considerable body of his subjects. Until your correspondents can prove, by somewhat more than mere assertion, that the *Regium Donum* is granted or received on any condition; that it is not faithfully distributed to proper objects; and that the Distributors have ever perverted it to political purposes, they will deserve no regard from persons of judgment and candour.

You

You may assure yourself that the body of Dissenters are not to be influenced by the ill-judged and intemperate zeal of a party among them, distinguished neither by its number nor importance.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

A DISSENTER.

With regard to the history of the Dissenters, it will be sufficient to observe, that it was first granted by George I. as a token of respect and gratitude to the Dissenters for their services and labours combined against him, when he was given by him, and has been continued in its full force, without any kind of condition, and it has been received without any engagement or stipulation on the part of those to whom the distinction of it is extended.

The history which I have stated about twenty years ago in some of our monthly publications

LETTER II.

SIR,

FEELING for the honour of the Dissenters as much, I am confident, as any of your correspondents, I have long since directed my attention to the history of the *Regium Donum* and to the conduct of its Distributors.

With regard to the history of this benefaction, it will be sufficient to observe, that it was first granted by George I. as a token of respect and gratitude to the Dissenters for their firm and zealous attachment to his family on its accession to the throne, and for the active and important services they rendered him at a time, when Tories and Jacobites combined against him.

It was given by him, and has been continued by his successors, without any kind of condition; and it has been received without any engagement or stipulation on the part of those to whom the distribution of it is entrusted.

The history which appeared about twenty years ago in some of our monthly publications,
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and which you have thought proper to republish in your paper, is notoriously erroneous ; and was compiled under the influence of principles and views, or rather of prejudices and passions, by no means honourable to the author. The various circumstances which occasioned *that history*, and to the truth of which you have given your *probatum est*, were well known to me and to several other persons who were acquainted with the Writer ; to whom it has been ascribed, at the time of its publication ; and if I thought myself at liberty to recite them, they would sufficiently account for the asperity and illiberality which it discovers,

As to the integrity of the Distributors of the *Regium Donum*, it will be sufficient to appeal to their general character. There are few, if any, who will presume to impeach their honesty and to charge them with being less faithful in the execution of this trust than they are in any other with which they are connected. Their accounts are as regularly audited and receipts are as punctually produced as they are in any other trust of a pecuniary nature. And if it were necessary, they can refer for evidence of their honesty to the books and papers, in which their respective accounts are kept. What then must you, Sir, and what must the public think of the veracity, to say nothing

thing of the liberality and candour, of your correspondent, who calls himself a Delegate for a neighbouring county, when he affirms, without any restriction or qualification, and without expressing so much as a hope that he is mistaken, “ that these gentlemen accept a trust, for the
“ due execution of which they have no apparent
“ means of accounting.”

But it may be said, that they are under influence in consequence of this trust and the opportunity it affords them of being useful to their brethren and to the general cause of the Dissenters. It must be allowed that they derive pleasure from being able to relieve meritorious indigence, and to assist in a variety of cases, where the interest of the Dissenters is concerned. But whether they are under the influence of the Crown or of any of its servants or not, will be best determined by a scrutiny of their conduct.

Have they not thought as freely, and spoken as openly of public men and public measures as any of their brethren? During the progress of the American war, many of them were adverse to it; they never disguised their sentiments; their opinion of it was known both to the king and to his ministers; but they were never reproached on this account; they were never de-
fired

fired to consider their obligations to the court; they were never required to approve or to justify public measures; nor were they ever directly or indirectly censured and condemned for disapproving them. If this money had been given for political purposes, is it not natural to imagine, that the receivers and distributors of it would have had some intimation what return of acknowledgment and service the donors expected from them?

Besides, have not the gentlemen concerned in this distribution been as forward and active as any of their brethren in their endeavours to serve the cause of the Dissenters with the Crown and its Ministers? In the years 1772, 1773, and 1779, when application was made for the enlargement of the Toleration-Act, they were as zealous as any others; and there were few who took greater pains in obtaining the relief that was sought. During the later applications that have been made by the Lay-Dissenters for the repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts, they have declared their wishes and exerted themselves in their favour as much as any others in similar situations with themselves. Does this conduct indicate influence on the part of the Crown or an improper deference and submission on their part?

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As a farther evidence that they are not subject to the direction and controul of the Crown and its servants, it should be considered, that whenever vacancies happen in this trust they are supplied by the survivors at their own pleasure and without any foreign interference: and they have, therefore, the same means of securing their independence with the members of any other public trust. I am much misinformed, if the most cordial harmony and mutual regard have not always subsisted in this trust. Every individual of this body possesses equal authority and is equally accountable. An anonymous writer, who says that one of the number "*now rules,*" betrays great ignorance of the constitution of this trust. The member to whom he refers possesses the mild and humble temper of a Christian and the manners of a Gentleman in so eminent a degree, that his brethren of the trust, as well as all who know him, will concur, I am persuaded, in condemning this reflection as a groundless aspersion.

Should it be said, that the Distributors of this bounty employ their influence with those who share it, for ministerial and political purposes, they deny the charge. The *onus probandi* lies on their accusers; and they defy the proof. They are conscious to themselves, that every suggestion

suggestion of this kind is unfounded, and can proceed from nothing but prejudice or malice.

If it should be asked, does not this grant involve the whole body of the Dissenters, and does it not restrain their freedom in judging and in pronouncing concerning public men and public measures? The plain answer is, that the Dissenters are precisely in the same situation for forming their sentiments and determining their conduct, as if no such benefaction were granted and received. If the Crown or Minister should be of opinion, that the Dissenters are bound by this donation to approve measures which they would otherwise condemn, to be silent when they would otherwise speak, and active when they would otherwise be still: if they should be of opinion, that it is a consideration given for the surrender of their liberty, and that in return they ought to be satisfied under unreasonable restraints, and never apply for any improvement of their condition; they will certainly withdraw it, as soon as they find it does not answer the purpose for which it was bestowed. Hitherto they have neither by word nor act declared, that it is granted for selfish and sinister purposes. The Dissenters have never yet been told, from any higher authority than that of Anonymous Calumniators, that they have "accepted a pecuniary

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“ compensation for their civil liberties, and bar-
 “ tered away the birthright of their posterity for
 “ ever.” No servant of the Crown, superior or
 subordinate, has ever charged them with ingra-
 titude, and with violating any expressed or im-
 plied engagement, when they have come for-
 ward to vindicate their rights and to seek that
 complete liberty to which they conceive them-
 selves entitled. It is not, therefore, at all sur-
 prising, that “ the Dissenters should not be
 aware of a compromise,” which never existed
 except in the imagination of those, who seem to
 be your Oracles on this subject.

It is presumed that the Sovereign and his
 Ministers have a higher opinion of the integrity
 and honour of the Dissenters, as a public body,
 than to suppose them capable of being influenced
 by a sum so inconsiderable and of estimating
 their liberty at so low a rate. I confess that, as
 a Dissenter, I cannot help feeling with resent-
 ment, the reproach which the charge of influence
 implies. Is this whole body of men, among whom
 are persons of learning and integrity, as well as of
 easy circumstances and even affluent fortune, ca-
 pable of being biassed in their judgment and
 conduct by a sum, which would be scarce suffi-
 cient to secure the attachment of a single indi-
 vidual in the superior ranks of life? Are the
 Dissenters

Dissenters more easily corrupted—are they bribed at a cheaper rate—than any other individuals—than any other body of men in the kingdom? The suggestion is defamatory; and every Dissenter of spirit will resent it. It must proceed from ignorance of their principles and character. It can tend to no purpose but that of humbling them in the opinion of their fellow-citizens. The sum is too small to produce the effect ascribed to it. Public men know the world too well to judge so erroneously: and I believe they have a greater respect for the character of the Dissenters, than to imagine such a grant can be an effectual bribe or to continue it with any such view. It is reserved for those who are or who pretend to be of their own body, to degrade them so much below the common standard of their fellow-subjects.

I am, Sir,

Your's,

A DISSENTER.

LETTER III.

SIR,

IN a former letter I have endeavoured to prove, by a plain statement of facts and by reasoning from those facts, that neither the grant nor acceptance of the *Regium Donum* justly deserves the reproach and odium, that have been lately charged upon it by persons who are ignorant of its true history. In the whole transaction, from its commencement to the present day, there is nothing “unworthy, which requires the “disavowal of the body of Dissenters by a public act,” as a nameless writer asserts:—there is nothing dishonourable either to the Crown or to the Dissenters. A sum that has been freely given has been freely received and faithfully applied to useful purposes.

Shall we say, that the King has no right to grant the least token of his favour to any of his Subjects; and that every instance of Royal favour originates in selfish views and is directed to corrupt and pernicious purposes? His station, upon these principles, must render him
incapable

incapable of any act of disinterested kindness. It is impossible for the King to be charitable, because every act of benevolence on his part becomes liable to suspicion and is instantly considered as the means of corruption.

But it has been said, that the Court is hostile to Dissenters; and, therefore, that no favour should be received from it. This is a principle which we should not be too ready to admit. Some allowances ought to be made for prejudices industriously instilled into the royal mind. Our enemies have improved every opportunity for this purpose: and there is reason to apprehend, that the sense of the nation, which interested men have taken great pains to pervert and mislead, is at this moment unfavourable to the principles and cause of the Dissenters. Is it surprising that the King, who has certainly no better means of information than other men, and who is subject to a variety of biases peculiar to his own station, should adopt opinions that are prevalent in the country; and that he should bend, perhaps, too willing an ear to accusations against a body of people, whose sentiments and views have been mistaken and misrepresented, and who, from a concurrence of circumstances, happen to be unpopular? The Dissenters, instead of resenting the
 ignorance

ignorance of their fellow-subjects and laying more of the blame on persons in high stations than they probably deserve, should endeavour to promote knowledge and a spirit of enquiry; and by mild and gentle methods supplant those prejudices which would be established and rendered invincible by a declaration of war and a direct attack. If we wish to inform the royal mind, to remove prejudices that are supposed to exist, and to conciliate regard; is this to be done by a public declaration that we will receive no favour from the Crown; that we will break off every friendly connection with it; that we will take it for granted and regulate our conduct on the supposition, that we are objects of enmity; and that we have no desire of regaining confidence and esteem? This kind of conduct would be condemned in all the common connections and intercourses of life: and I confess that I have not penetration enough to discern how it can be less liable to censure and reproach in the connection that subsists between the Sovereign and his Subjects. True policy—a policy perfectly consistent with integrity and honour—requires us to be slow in believing, and still more slow in avowing our opinion, by any public act, that the Chief Magistrate of the country regards the body of Dissenters as objects of disapprobation and displeasure. Conscious of the
rectitude

rectitude of our own sentiments and conduct, we should rather conclude, that, as we are entitled to favour in common with others of our fellow-subjects, this favour will be continued to us; and that the time is approaching, when, by the prevalence of just sentiments, it may be exercised to the utmost extent of our reasonable claims. In order to accelerate this period, let us enlighten the people, and not irritate and provoke those that are in possession of power by surmises and reflections, that are either unfounded or impolitic. Let us convince the public by sound argument and by our peaceable conduct, that we deserve the unrestricted liberty which we claim: nor let discontent and petulance, invidious reflections and angry invectives, raise obstacles in the way of our obtaining it. As long as the Crown continues favours which we have been accustomed to receive, let us not hastily and indignantly reject them; nor say in the face of the Sovereign, we know you hate us and we will receive no boon from your hands.

If the Dissenters were now to refuse the acceptance of a grant, which has been continued to them without interruption for near a century, would they not plead guilty to the charge, which their mistaken friends or real enemies have brought forward? Would they not implicitly
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acknowledge, that they and their ancestors have been, till this moment of fancied emancipation, under undue influence? Would they not bear testimony to a falshood, and, in so doing, fix the reproach, which they must be conscious of not meriting? Is this the time, a time of dissatisfaction and tumult, when Europe is in agitation and when those who wish for the continued peace, as well as the gradual improvement of the constitution, of their own country, are anxious and trembling: Is this the time, in which the Dissenters ought to come forward and say, that they will no longer receive any favour from the Crown? Shall they be the first to sound the trumpet of separation and of discord? Shall any of them attempt to dissolve that union, on which their reputation and prosperity depend?

Shall the Distributors of the Royal bounty, convinced in their own minds of the rectitude of their views and sentiments and capable of appealing to their uniform conduct against every charge of influence—shall they give occasion for any to say, they now resign what they ought never to have received and should no longer retain? The public opinion has decided upon their character. They silently acquiesce in the decision. They surrender a Trust which they are satisfied is dishonourable in itself and injurious to the body with which they are connected.

I confess

I confess that, in these circumstances, I should hesitate in yielding to clamours which my conscience told me were unfounded. I should not chuse to incur the *odium* which enemies and friends would attach to conduct of this kind. A charge of influence is publicly advanced by persons that are anonymous. Under this charge the Distributors are required to surrender their Trust. Let them comply with the requisition, and what would be the consequence? The persons who make the charge would triumph in their success. Those who have been most bold and busy in demanding this surrender, would probably be the first to reproach the Members of this Trust. They would say, these men have acknowledged the truth. Our suspicions were just. We convict them by their own confession. Rather, let the whole transaction, in its rise, progress, and effects, be fairly examined. The Trustees meet the enquiry. They will stand the test of a scrutiny. They are confident of its favourable issue: and they will continue to exercise the same fidelity in the review of which they dread no calumny.

It is needless to apprise these gentlemen, that every power of usefulness is connected with the hazard of reproach. They cannot have long occupied public stations without the experience of

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this truth. It is possible that the men, who have been most indebted to this benefaction, may be the foremost and the loudest in the clamour against it. Should this be the case, and ingratitude provoke resentment, the Trustees, I am persuaded, will not be unmindful of the Apostolic Maxim: "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

I am, Sir,

Yours,

A DISSENTER.

LETTER IV.

SIR,

I shall pursue the discussion of the subject, to which your Correspondents have directed my attention, without any introduction or apology.

The Distributors of the *Regium Donum* are in possession of a Trust for the benefit of meritorious indigence. The poor amongst their brethren have a claim upon the money committed to their disposal. They have no right to alienate, to surrender, or to incur the forfeiture of a charity, from which they derive no personal advantage; but which is the resource of the necessitous. If they were accessory to the discontinuance of this benefaction, the poor might say, where is the supply which was granted for our relief and benefit? as Individuals, You might have withdrawn from a Trust, which you did not approve; but you had no right to abolish the Trust itself. It was not for you to determine, how long the King should dispense favours to indigent Dissenters and when they should be discontinued. We have reason to complain of the injury you have done us—an injury, which

it is not in your power to redress. You have bereaved us and our families of needful and seasonable relief. Our successors, in the humble, but we trust, important stations which we now occupy, will also have occasion to condemn and lament your surrender of a Trust, from which they might otherwise have derived encouragement and assistance. You are accountable not only to us, but to future generations. The reproach of those who are yet unborn, will be entailed on your memories. It behoves you then, maturely to consider, whether you have a right to resign a benefaction, granted to our ancestors, continued to us, and, unless Dissenters of the present day are so unwise as to provoke the withdrawalment of it, likely to be transmitted to our posterity. You are merely Distributors in Trust for the benefit of others; and till new conditions which you cannot approve, which have never yet been proposed, and which you have no reason to expect, are annexed to the continuance of your Trust, you are bound in duty to retain it. Every principle of justice—every sentiment of honour and humanity forbid you to relinquish it.

I much doubt whether an act of this kind would be justifiable in compliance with the requisition even of a Majority of the Dissenters of the

the present day. They can only declare their own sense upon the question, if it were fairly and impartially submitted to their consideration; which has not yet been the case. But have they a right to determine for the whole body of Dissenters on a subject which concerns the Minority as well as themselves and in which future generations have an interest, of which the present race of Dissenters ought not to deprive them? Those who disapprove of this benefaction need not avail themselves of it. If it should be offered them, they are at liberty to decline the acceptance of it. But their scruples, whatever may be the cause from which they proceed, should not preclude others from a benefit, which may be distributed and received by persons, not less distinguished for integrity and honour than those who refuse and reprobate it.

It is not easy to ascertain the sense of the whole body of Dissenters on any question; and much less on a question of this kind. Individuals are apt to speak the language of the class or party, with which they associate and converse; and they infer the judgment of the Majority from that of the few, to whom their intercourse extends. But I believe, and not without having taken some pains in investigating the subject, that a very considerable Majority of the Dissenters

ters are decided in their opinion, that the benefaction which has occasioned the present discussion ought not to be surrendered; and that the clamours that are industriously circulated by a news-paper correspondence can answer no important and useful purpose.

Who are the persons, that have officiously started the question and that are disquieting the minds of the Public, it is impossible for me to say, nor is it of any great moment to enquire. What are their views, they themselves best know. What good they propose, either to the Dissenters as a body or to the nation at large, it is not easy to discover. I have already taken the liberty to suggest what appears to me to be the probable consequence of hasty and intemperate reflections on an act of royal favour. I have no apprehension, that the Body of Dissenters will be so unwise as to give sanction to such reflections by their approbation.

One of your correspondents informs you, that he is a Delegate for a neighbouring county; and that he is determined to institute an enquiry into the subject of the *Regium Donum* at the next meeting of the Deputies and Delegates. Who this Delegate is, and what powers he possesses under this denomination, he has thought proper

to conceal. Whether he has convened his constituents or not; how far he is able to declare their opinion; what confidence they repose in his judgment; and to what extent they will approve the measures which he may propose, are questions which will naturally occur at the public meeting to which he refers, and which, I imagine, he is able to answer. If the enquiry, which he wishes to agitate, should not appear to be a part of his commission, his powers as a Delegate are no more than mine; and his sentiments, if the order of business admits of their being canvassed, must be those of an Individual, deriving no claim to attention from the office he bears.

It will then be known, what are the facts to which he can appeal, and what are the arguments which he is able to produce, in order to prove “ that the Dissenters submit to be the *servants* “ *of a Court*, that **NEGLECTS** and **OPPRES-** “ **SES** them.” This is a serious charge both against the Court, and the Dissenters. It requires strong proofs; and unsupported by evidence, it will recoil against this Delegate himself; and justice will denominate it a calumny.

In the body of Deputies there are many gentlemen of age, experience and judgment,
whose

whose good sense and knowledge of the world are accompanied with calmness and moderation. Anxious as I am for the honour of the Dissenters in a decision, which is likely to produce permanent effects, I am perfectly satisfied that the determination of this body on the proposed enquiry of the Delegate for a neighbouring county will be wise and just; and such as will contribute most effectually to the union and tranquillity of the Dissenters. They will adopt measures, that shall have a tendency to conciliate and not to exasperate; to prevent and not to promote divisions; to serve and not to injure the cause in the support of which they associate. They will not be so absurd as to imagine, that the charge of "NEGLECT and OPPRESSION" against the Court is a decent introduction to the renewal of an application for a repeal of the Test Laws, and that such a charge is likely to remove prejudices that exist in the legislature and in the country, to increase the number of their friends and to secure their ultimate success.

It is not upon slight evidence, much less on surmises and assertions, justified by no facts and incapable of confirmation, that they will believe, that the *Regium Donum* has been granted or continued either "as a bribe for silence or a compromise for justice;" and they will think it needless
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"by any public act to disavow a transaction as unworthy" in which they have no personal concern and which reflects dishonour and demerit only on those who misrepresent it.

I am, Sir,

Your's,

A DISSENTER.

The Dissenters, it must be acknowledged, have been always distinguished by their inviolable zeal and liberality. I have been witness, in the course of my life and intimate connection with them, to many exertions, that have done them honour. They are in the habit of contributing in common with their fellow-subjects of other denominations, to charitable institutions of a general nature; and they have among themselves funds of various kinds, which demand their constant support. In these circumstances I should regret devolving upon them, without necessity, any new burden. But are the advocates for this extraordinary fund apprized of the difficulty

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LETTER V.

SIR,

IT has been suggested, at least in private conversation, that the Dissenters should raise a fund to supply the place of the *Regium Donum*; and that when they have done this, they should agree to surrender it. Those who propose this scheme are of opinion, that in the mean while the grant of Royal favour should be accepted.

The Dissenters, it must be acknowledged, have been always distinguished by their laudable zeal and liberality. I have been witness, in the course of my life and intimate connection with them, to many exertions, that have done them honour. They are in the habit of contributing, in common with their fellow-subjects of other denominations, to charitable institutions of a general nature; and they have among themselves funds of various kinds, which demand their constant support. In these circumstances I should regret devolving upon them, without necessity, any new burden. But are the advocates for this extraordinary fund apprized of the difficulty
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of rendering it sufficiently ample as well as permanent? How is such a fund to be formed?—not by Annual Subscriptions. These are too precarious. They depend upon the pleasure and upon the lives of the Contributors. They afford no certain supply to the Dissenters of the present age. They entail no resources on the next generation. A fund of this kind cannot answer the purpose of its establishment, unless it be made as durable as national securities will allow. It is needless to ask, is it easy to raise such a fund? Is it practicable, without depriving other charitable institutions of the support which they equally need and merit? will the Dissenters so generally and so cordially concur in the principle that evinces the necessity of it as to think themselves obliged, either in justice or honour, to contribute to its establishment? will not many of them, however enlightened and steady in their attachment to the cause of Dissenters and however liberal in their disposition on all important occasions, disapprove the design of such an establishment, withhold their concurrence, and even discourage the progress and prevent the completion of it? A fund, sufficiently ample, might possibly be raised by the united zeal of the whole body of Dissenters. They possess ability and inclination to do much more than this, on an occasion that would engage and justify their concurring
and

and cordial exertions. But in the present case and all circumstances considered, it appears to me to be an ideal object. It may be proposed in argument by those who would find themselves very unequal to the actual accomplishment of it. To those who contend for the rejection of the *Regium Donum* on this ground we might reply:—Execute your design—provide the substitute—calm the minds of those who are interested in the measure you propose—establish resources equally permanent with such as you wish to abolish:—and when you have succeeded so far, you will be furnished with a new plea for declining to accept what is now freely granted to the necessities of your brethren and faithfully distributed in promoting the cause which you wish to support. It will then be soon enough to consider, whether you ought to surrender any other benefaction which you may receive.

But it appears to me, that the advocates of the *Regium Donum* need not avail themselves of the concession that has been now stated. They have no occasion to take the advantage of an-impracticable proposition; and to defer their defence till circumstances occur, that are never likely to happen. With or without any new resources, which the liberality of Dissenters may provide, the Trustees of

of the *Regium Donum* are under no obligation to resign it, as long as it is continued, and whilst they are allowed to distribute it without the direction, or controul, or most remote interference of the crown and its servants. Should new circumstances occur, of which they have not the slightest apprehension, and which their uniform experience has not given them the least reason to expect, as men of integrity and honour they will know how to act. They will require no intimations from a News-paper Correspondence, or even from a County-Delegate, what it will be proper for them to do. I have reason to believe, from their known sentiments, disposition and character, that they are as independent and uncorrupt, and as incapable of submitting to improper influence or of exerting it, as any of their Brethren; not excepting those with whom they are in habits of intimate connection and intercourse, and whom they most respect and value. They are men, who feel themselves responsible for this and every other trust and talent that are committed to them at an higher tribunal than that of Kings and Ministers of State. To this tribunal they direct their views, and in the prospect of it entertain the humble hope of approbation. They are men, who will never be intimidated by unmerited censure;—who will never forfeit the esteem of the
wise

*small thing to be judged of Man's judgment ;
ing that he who judgeth them is the Lord.*



F I N I S.

judgment; know-
be Lord.